IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Do not be misled by MI5 operatives who state that they need you to assist them.

Do not talk to them regarding any matter.

Do make sure that you obtain the MI5 officers names and telephone number.

Do state to the MI5 operatives that you need to seek legal advice.

Do state to the MI5 operatives that your solicitor will contact them.

Do not discuss any matters with them, ***walk away immediately*** once you have taken the MI5 operatives names and phone number.

Do not discuss matters regarding your movements or those of anyone else.

Always remember - there is no obligation under law for you to answer any questions that MI5 operatives put to you.

Make a note of the time and place where MI5 contacted you.

Make a note of anything the MI5 operatives said to you.

Seek legal advice as early as possible.

Having sought legal advice,
let the solicitor act on your behalf

éirígí

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Know Your Rights:

MI5 – *Britain's Secret Security Service*

An increasing and disturbing trend has emerged across the Six Counties where undercover MI5 agents have engaged in numerous attempts to recruit various individuals to 'work' for them.

Many of those being targeted are not republicans. Incidents have been reported to éirígí in recent months which show that among those being targeted are community workers, trade union activists and ordinary members of the public.

The circumstances in which these approaches by MI5 have been made vary from case to case.

As a follow-up to éirígí's '***know your rights***' card detailing a person's rights when stopped or questioned by the PSNI, the party has decided to release this information leaflet advising people what to do if approached by MI5.

So what are your rights as far as MI5 are concerned?

A lot of people panic when approached by MI5 because they don't know what to do. People are uncertain as to what their rights and choices are when they are approached by MI5 operatives.

This leaflet sets out very plainly what a person should or should not do if approached by MI5.

It is vital for everyone, and the community as a whole, to become aware of what rights they have in such circumstances.

What are you supposed to do, for example, if you are walking down the road and MI5 operatives approach you?

Essentially, you have a choice to make.

One choice is that you can agree to speak to, co-operate with or work for MI5. If you co-operate, MI5 will use and abuse you until your usefulness to them has run out. Then you will be discarded, left unprotected and vulnerable which could lead to you being separated from your family, friends, or worse.

The second, and correct, choice is that you simply refuse to speak to, co-operate with or work for MI5 at all.

This is the only sensible option, one which all right-thinking people will choose to exercise in such circumstances.

There is no obligation under any law for you to work for MI5 as their agent or spy.

There is no obligation for people to become their agents.

It is very important for people to be aware of these basic legal facts.

There is absolutely no duty placed upon you by any law to co-operate with or answer any questions put to you by MI5 operatives.

MI5 operatives do not have the power to arrest or detain you.

All that MI5 operatives can do is approach you and ask if you want to work for them. They may offer you an incentive such as money or even say they can help you get a job.

There already is well-known documented information relating to people who previously worked for MI5. These people basically deceived other individuals to whom they became very close and provided information about them to MI5 operatives. In return they were promised payments and favours – until they were exposed, isolated and left to fend for themselves.

MI5 basically exists to gather intelligence information about people: people who may be your neighbours, friends or even family members.

You may probably wonder why you are being targeted. You are not alone.

Lots of other people are also being targeted for no apparent reason - trade unionists, lawyers, political activists, community workers, ordinary people, all of whom are not involved in any 'unlawful' activities.

An 'intelligence file' can be opened on any individual and MI5 operatives then assigned to them. This may be for no other reason than simply because of where they happen to live.

MI5 operatives never give out their real names. They will always use nicknames, such as Ian, Alex, etc., in order for you to contact them or provide information to them.

It is very important for you to understand and appreciate the fact that there is no obligation for you to cooperate with MI5.

If you are approached by MI5 operatives, take a note of their 'names' and contact telephone number.

Inform your solicitor immediately and let your solicitor write to MI5 stating that you do not wish to work for MI5 so, at the very least, there is a record kept by an independent person.

It is important that every person approached by MI5 contacts a solicitor. You could also ask your solicitor to publicise MI5's approach to you.

However, some people being approached by MI5 officers are not taking these basic steps to protect themselves from future approaches. They foolishly believe that MI5 might just go away, that MI5 has accepted that the person doesn't want to work for them and that's the end of the story.

Unfortunately, that may not be the case. MI5 will often come back and target these people at a later stage. There is a real possibility of this.

Therefore, it's also important that you make members of your family, your neighbours and your community aware of any approach to you by MI5.

Only then can you be empowered to prevent any re-occurrence of these unacceptable infringements on your rights and civil liberties.